

REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to in the Office Action. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation to claim 8.

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Hiller (U.S. Pat. No. 6,445,922). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

I. The Invention

The claimed invention, for example as recited in claim 1, discloses a method for transferring an IP packet over a path from a sender over a radio access network to a mobile host. After a home agent has received an incoming data packet determined for the mobile host with a destination address, the home agent examines if there is a match between the destination address of the packet and a subnetwork address of a foreign agent listed in a list of subnetwork addresses stored at the home agent. If there is a match between the destination address and the subnetwork address of a foreign agent, the home agent further examines whether a preconfigured label switched path from the home agent to the foreign agent exists. If this is the case, the home agent sends the packet to this foreign agent on this preconfigured label switched path.

The usage of preconfigured label switched paths, which rely on the principle of Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), has the advantage that data packets are no longer forwarded from one router to a following router by means of a conventional Hop-by-Hop procedure, which requires in every router a decision for the most appropriate path. When MPLS is employed, a predefined path is used for forwarding the data packets between an Ingress router and an Egress router. Preferably, the Ingress router and the Egress router are located at the periphery of a certain network. In between the ingress router and the Egress router the preconfigured label switched path is defined by Intermediate stations which only need to analyze special labels which precede the MPLS data packets. Since the analysis of these special labels can be carried out directly above the second layer (the data link layer) in the Open Systems Interconnection Basic Reference Model (OSI Reference Model) for communications and computer network protocols, the forwarding of data packets along the preconfigured label

switched path can be realized by appropriate hardware. Thus, the forwarding of the data packets can be accomplished very fast.

II. The Prior Art

The Hiller reference discloses a method and a system for supporting overlapping IP addresses by sharing a mobile node identifier between an Interworking Function (IWF) and a Foreign Agent in a visited data network. The mobile node identifier is stored in lookup tables associated with the IWF comprising a Mobile Identity table and the Foreign Agent comprising a Visitor List table. When a data packet travels between the IWF and the Foreign Agent, the mobile node identifier is attached thereto. For data packets moving towards the mobile node, the IWF uses the mobile node identifier to identify the correct mobile node destination by finding the corresponding link identifier in the Mobile Identity table.

III. Patentable Differences Between the Invention and the Prior Art

In contrast to the claimed invention, Hiller fails to disclose that a preconfigured label switched path between a home agent and a foreign agent are used for forwarding an IP data packet to a mobile host, respectively, a mobile node. In this respect, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that in column 2, lines 48-51 Hiller discloses the usage of a label switched path. Rather, it is only disclosed that a data packet is sent from the Foreign Agent to the Home Agent. Additionally, column 6, lines 26-29, cited by the Examiner in connection with preconfigured label switched paths, fails to teach the usage of such label switched paths. Rather, this paragraph only describes the usage of a Mobile Identity Table representing a lookup table for routing a data packet to the Foreign Agent in a conventional manner. In this respect, it is pointed out that the usage of a lookup table for matching IP addresses requires the employment of appropriate software for routing the data packets. In contrast, according to the label switched paths in the claimed invention, they are used in a manner which allows for forwarding the data packets much faster by using appropriate hardware and taking benefit of the above described OSI Reference Model.

Since the recited method is not disclosed by the applied prior art, claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2-7, depending from claim 1, are similarly patentable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing, referencing Attorney Docket 118744-100.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

By 

Kevin R. Spivak

Reg. No. 43,148

Customer No. 29177

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